

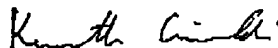
REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8 and 18 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1 and 18 are independent. Claims 4, 6 and 11-17 have been canceled in this paper. Claims 1, 5 and 18 have been amended.

Claims 1-8 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fealey et al. in view of Laryea et al. Claim 18 was found to be allowable. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 4 and 16, as suggested by the Examiner, who indicated in a conversation with the undersigned on June 9 that this would place claim 1 in condition for allowance. Applicant has also rewritten allowable claim 18 in independent form, incorporating the limitations of claim 17.

Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments have placed the application in condition for allowance without expanding the scope of any pending claim, and therefore, without raising new issues or requiring any further consideration, and respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered and all claims be passed to allowance at this time. In any event, Applicant believes that this Amendment places the claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and should be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. However, if the Examiner has any further objections to the application, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone at (847) 649-3891 to discuss the remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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